



Region Three Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
February 9, 2010  
Decision Notice for

## **Grannis FAS Proposed Perpetual Easement and Development Draft Environmental Assessment**

### **Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposed to obtain a perpetual easement on an approximately one-acre parcel of State School Trust Land near the Shields River from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for the Grannis Fishing Access Site (FAS).

### **Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on November 16, 2009.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from November 16 through December 16, 2009. The EA was mailed to 27 groups and individuals.

### **Summary of Public Comment**

FWP received ten comment letters and one verbal comment for the proposed action. The eleven comments received supported the proposal.

### **Examples of statements from public comments**

“I am in strong favor of the proposed site, great idea!”

“On behalf of Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana’s oldest and largest organization of hunters, anglers, and recreationists comprised of 23 affiliated sportsmen’s clubs and more than 7500 members, we offer support for the proposed acquisition of the Grannis FAS. We are pleased to see the progress in achieving public recreational access to this public water.”

“This access site is long overdue. When you have a public river and public land along the river with county or state access, the site should be improved and provide access for ALL Montanan's to our natural resources.”

**FWP Response:** Duly noted.

## **Decision**

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative C, as described in the Grannis FAS Proposed Perpetual Easement and Development Draft Environmental Assessment. In the preferred alternative, FWP will obtain a perpetual easement for the approximate one-acre parcel of land to establish a designated parking area that would provide continued public access to this stretch of the Shields River.

## **Appeal**

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Mr. Joe Maurier, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Todd Garrett, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.



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Gerald Walker  
Regional Parks Manager

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